

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3-7 were previously withdrawn from consideration. It is respectfully submitted that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 8, 2006.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Patten Jr. et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,652). Claims 1, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Goodman et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,454,865). However, for at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's anticipation rejection of claims 1, 8 and 9.

Briefly, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. However, neither *Patten Jr. et al.*, nor *Goodman et al.* describes the claimed shapes of "a gas supply channel" and "a gas discharge channel". For example, Figs. 2 and 14 of *Patten Jr. et al.* (which the examiner referred to in the Office Action) merely depict a flow of gas from a gas supply channel to a gas discharge channel through a wafer pocket. However, this flow of gas is not generated by the rotation of the susceptor. Further, for example, Fig. 35 of *Goodman et al.* (which the examiner also referred to) merely illustrates that the supply of gas and the discharge of gas are performed through the same channel. However, this supply and discharge of gas is not generated by the rotation of the susceptor. In other words, it is apparent from Figs. 2 and 14 of

Patten Jr. et al and Fig. 35 of *Goodman et al* that the gas supply channel and the gas discharge channel of these citations do not have the shape adapted to supply or discharge gas into or from the wafer pocket as the susceptor rotates.

Thus, in view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation rejections are unsupported by the cited references and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 1, 8, and 9.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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